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CHINESE ACKNOWLEDGE SOVIET HELP
IN COMBATING PLAGUE IN NORTH CHAHAR

HEALTH DEPARTMENT HONORS SOVIET ANTIPLAGUE TEAM -- Ta Kung Pao, 30 Oct 49

Pei-p'ing, 10 October -- On 9 October 1949, the Health Department of the People's Revolution Military Affairs Council gave a banquet in honor of the First Antiplague Detachment of the Soviet Red Cross Half-Moon Association, which came to Pei-p'ing via Jehol.

Since 1947, the Soviet Union has been dispatching such units to China to assist and direct antiplague campaigns. This year's team, headed by Mayskiy and Streltsov (both names approximations from the Chinese), has been in plague areas of Northeast China for the last 5 months. Within that time, the Soviet team helped to destroy 7,360,000 rats, give antiplague shots, and isolate afflicted persons to prevent the spread of the disease.

The drop in the annual mortality rate since 1947 is due mainly to the efforts of these Soviet antiplague teams. In 1947, there were 30,326 plague patients in China, of whom 3,172 died from the disease. In 1948, there were 5,493 afflicted persons and 3,924 deaths. Up to 10 September of this year, only 144 suffered from the disease and 69 died.

RAIL TRAFFIC RESUMED AS PLAGUE SUBSIDES -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 25 Nov 49

Pei-p'ing, 15 November (HCHS) -- Since the plague epidemic in North Chahar has definitely subsided, railroad traffic has been resumed between Han-k'ou and Ta-tung on the Kwei-sui-Pei-p'ing Railroad. Resumption of rail traffic, halted recently as an antiplague measure, was in response to a letter dispatched to the Railroad Ministry of the Administration Council, by Tung Pi-wu, chairman of the Central Antiplague Committee.

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Tung's letter to the Railroad Ministry stated that the danger of epidemic had subsided and that the antiplague precautions would be doubled after the resumption of traffic. He stated that plague inspectors will be posted on every train, and persons traveling from Chang-chia-k'ou (Kalgan) to Hsuan-hua by rail will be required to carry certificates proving that they have been inoculated.

The letter also stated:

"Hog skins and bristles, transported between Chang-chia-k'ou and Kuei-sui or from Chang-chia-k'ou to Pei-p'ing, must be thoroughly inspected. Shipping of all perishable goods which are difficult to disinfect will be forbidden. The above restrictions do not apply to trains coming into Chang-chia-k'ou from other places. All rail workers and freight handlers must take antiplague shots.

"The number of deaths since the outbreak has reached 62."

When Tung was interviewed by a reporter, he said that the plague epidemic was checked in a record time of less than 20 days. "This was due especially to the assistance rendered by the Soviet antiplague personnel and the positive actions on the part of the Chinese people," he said.

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